

TITLE: ANIMAL HEALTH EVALUATION

Purpose:

To facilitate appropriate management of animals requiring veterinary attention.

Responsibilities:

Animal caretakers, animal technicians, facility management, and facility veterinarians are responsible for Animal Health in the animal facilities.

General

Personnel must check all animals daily for signs of disease and physical and behavioral abnormalities. Health issues can be due to infectious agents, genetic abnormalities, environmental problems, or experimental procedures.

Procedures

In the event that a sick or otherwise abnormal animal is detected, personnel will take the following action:

1. Save and identify all animals in a suspect cage(s). Save all cage cards and any other records that might have been kept on the particular cage(s). Place a "watch" card with the date, problem and who found the animal, on the cage.
2. Notify the responsible technician and the supervisor and /or manager.
3. FAX an Animal Health Report to LAM for all animals with health issues.
4. Animals that appear even mildly dehydrated should be given irradiated "wet feed" immediately. Moderate to severe dehydration necessitates giving a dish of water. Transport gel has no nutritive value and so should not be used in place of wet feed. Animals that have been fighting should be separated.
5. Notify the LAM staff if you have not received further instructions within a reasonable period of time (see following pages).

Time Frame:

CONDITION of ANIMAL	ACTIONS to be TAKEN	RESPONSE TIME FRAME
Moribund/severely distressed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refer to study requirements in ASP * 2. Call PI or designee** for verbal permission to euthanize 3. If PI/designee cannot be reached within 1 hour call LAM for permission to euthanize . 4. If LAM cannot be reached within 1 hour call designated Facility Manager for permission to euthanize. 5. Refer to Animal Disposition Authorization form for instructions on the disposition of moribund animals. 6. FAX an animal health report to LAM 	Within 1 hour from when animal is first identified
Severe skin condition, other debilitating – but not critical – health issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call PI or designee for verbal permission to euthanize or attempt to treat 2. If PI/designee cannot be reached within 1 hour call LAM for permission to euthanize or treat <u>AND</u> 3. Fax an Animal Health Report to LAM 4. Treatment will be directed by LAM 	Within 4 hours from when animal is first identified
Condition is moderate and generally not treatable. Ulcerated/infected tumor, diarrhea, abnormal respiration, neurological abnormality, rectal prolapse, facial swelling/abcess	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notify the PI or designee immediately 2. Fax an Animal Health Report to LAM 3. Must call LAM to discuss the case <p>NOTE: Euthanasia is recommended for many of these</p>	Within 24 hours from when animal is first identified

	conditions as no effective treatments are available. Some neurological phenotypes may be maintained but must be monitored closely.	
Condition is moderate and treatable. weight loss (less than 20%), moderate skin condition, eye lesion, hunched posture but active.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notify the PI or designee immediately 2. Initiate treatment if it doesn't interfere with the research objectives. If it does interfere with the research objectives, call LAM to discuss the case. 3. Fax an Animal Health Report to LAM 	Within 24 hours from when animal is first identified
Condition is mild. Mild skin condition, rough fur, mild facial abrasion, minor health issue.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notify the PI or designee 2. Initiate treatment if it doesn't interfere with the research objectives. If it does interfere with the research objectives, call LAM to discuss the case. 3. Fax an Animal Health Report to LAM 	Within 24 hours from when animal is first identified
Multiple unexplained moribund or dead animals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call LAM and AHDL immediately 2. Notify the PI or designee 	Within 4 hours from when animal is first identified

*If an animal is moribund or in a severely distressed condition, the responsible technician/manager should be aware of study requirements as written in the approved Animal Study Proposal (ASP) in the event of euthanasia and should respond immediately or within the hour.

**Designee: Personnel designated in writing by the Principal Investigator. Ex., Co-PI, technician, post-doc, facility manager.

- Advanced planning is recommended. A completed Animal Disposition Authorization form should be on file for each Animal Study conducted in each facility. This form contains instructions from the investigator specifying what they would like done with animals (for example – blood sampling, take tissues, freeze carcass, cryopreserve sperm, etc.) before the animal reaches a critical or moribund state.
- LASP relies on personnel to carefully monitor the animals under their care. Daily observations play a vital part in the effort to maintain disease free, genetically standardized, laboratory rodents for research. Adhering to these procedures is absolutely necessary to assure animal well-being and accurate interpretation of scientific data.
- **If there are unexpected complications that arise during the course of the study and animals are in poor health or die, notify LAM immediately by phone or animal health report**

